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INFORMATION ~~SECRET~~ REPORT

COUNTRY China

DATE DISTR. 28 September 1948

SUBJECT Political Information: Hostile Sentiments
Growing among Mohammedans in Ninghsia Province
25X1A

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1. Anti-Chinese sentiments among the Mohammedans in the Northwest provinces of China are mounting daily. These Mohammedans still remember with bitterness the days of oppressive rule of the Chinese Government during and since the Ch'ing Dynasty. Now, however, the Mohammedans feel that the civil war in China has turned in their favor because it has helped to renew their hope of attaining absolute independence. They feel that they must not miss this opportunity, whether the leader in this action be Ninghsia Provincial Governor MA Hung-k'uei (馬鴻逵) [redacted] and [redacted] or any other Mohammedan. The current belief among Mohammedans is that as soon as the situation in China permits, the Central Government will resume its oppressive rule. Meanwhile, the USSR has been pressing the Uighur tribes in order to strengthen the ties among Mohammedans in the Northwest and to heighten their anti-Chinese sentiments. The Soviet authorities are well aware that under the command of MA Hung-k'uei are three divisions, totalling about 100,000 men, of whom eighty-five percent are Mohammedans. These authorities are utilizing every means possible to separate them from the Chinese. As a part of this program they are trying to direct the MA Clan (MA Hung-k'uei, MA Pu-fang, etc.) through the influence of the Pancham Lama, because, though possessing military power, the MA Clan is respectful of the religious sovereignty of the Lama.
2. Now that MA Hung-k'uei has reached an understanding (sic) with the Soviet-supported Ining Government, he will most probably take a neutral stand in case the latter becomes involved either in the Chinese civil war or in any other incidents in the future. The Kuomintang's opportunity of gaining power in Ninghsia Province is rapidly decreasing as virtually the only Kuomintang officials remaining in the Province are liaison men. The MA Clan cannot be expected to choose other than an attitude of indifference or disregard toward the Kuomintang.
3. Recently General PAI Ch'ung-hsi (白崇禧) has been denounced by his fellow Mohammedans as a traitor because he has failed to render his full support to his fellow men's dream of independence.
4. Growing anti-American sentiment among Mohammedans can be partially traced to an antipathy for General FENG Yu-hsiang, who discriminated against the Mohammedans during his period of rule in the Northwest. [redacted] Comment. FENG was reported burned to death aboard a Russian ship early in September 1948.) The Mohammedans in the Northwest, hearing reports of FENG's favorable reception and partial support in the United States, feared that FENG might again come to power, and transferred their antipathy for FENG to the United States.

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